

**Andrew Jackson to Newton Cannon, November 6, 1816,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

1 Copy. Col. Newton Cannon was M. C. from Tennessee 1814–1817, 1819–1823;
governor

Nashville, November 6, 1816.

Sir, Your letter of the 3d inst was handed me yesterday. I regret extremely the mistake you labored under, that you were to meet me at Mr. Eatons office instead of my own. My request was that you would call at my Office, and see those accounts which the Secy. of War had stated were laid before the Senate and House of Representatives and approved by them both. I waited two days at the Office, and had you met me agreeable to appointment, you would have averted several errors, which, from your letter I find you have fallen into.

I enclose the caption of the accounts. there is no certificate on or about them. after you read the caption you certainly can say and recollect whether you or your men either took or wantonly destroyed any of the Cherokee Indians property, and if you did, how much, and the place where you committed the robbery an[d] distruction. It runs thus: "Statement of Claims of Cherokee's for pay, for property taken and wantonly destroyed by the Volunteer and Militia of Tennessee, on their march against the hostile Creek Indians" etc.

My letter was written to you to give you the information of the charge made and incorporated in the 5th article of the Cherokee treaty, 2

2 The language of the article is simply that the United States agrees to pay \$25,500
";to indemnify the individuals of the Cherokee nation for losses sustained by them in

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consequence of the march of the militia and other troops in the service of the United States through that nation".

that you might assert[?] to your constituents, and to your soldiery, how it came to pass, that you as one of the re[p]resentatives in Congress, permitted such a gross calumny to be handed down to posterity, in the solemn form of a treaty, without your opposition to it.

I do not here mean to enter into a political discussion with you. I will only remark, that it never has, or will it ever be admitted by me, that the War Office or any of its Departments, is the proper place for the investigation of any accounts, that form the basis of an article of treaty for the payment of money. The representative body is the only and proper Judge of the accounts submitted by treaty, to be paid for, and which should be fully examined, and appropriations be paid. You ought to have fully examined the accounts, and had you done so, you would have seen fraud and villany in the face of them. If you were not present, a duty to yourself required you to say so, to your Soldiery and constituents. You are pleased to say the Slander I speak of, you have only heard spoken of here. Have you not Sir, seen it incorporated in the 5th Article of the Treaty, and let me ask where ought you to have heard it spoken of, but by the innocent and injured. read the rules and Articles of War, read the late charges and specifications against some of our Officers high in rank and you will find that the Officers permitting such depredations, are liable to severe penalties an[d] disgraces, and is it extraordinary therefore that Officers of honorable feeling should complain, when the soldiers under their command are charged with the commission of such offences, and you as one of the officers slandered, and acting in the capacity of a representative highly blamed for permitting it and censured for the want of those high military feelings.

As to myself I mean to do my duty to the brave men I commanded. I have sufficient proof before me, and in my power, to obtain. I shall not call upon you unless upon oath before some tribunal, that may be appointed (if any ever should) for a full investigation of this business, and leave the matter between you and your soldiery and constituents.

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I am Sir, Yr. obt. svt.

[P.S.] As a member of the House of Representatives it became your duty to examine the Cherokee accounts before the appropriation was passed for carrying the Treaty into effect.
A. J.